Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SSC-01 EB-07 COME-00 EA-07 /097 W

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R 011230Z JUN 77 FM AMEMBASSY SANA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1393 INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA AMEMBASSY LONDON AMEMBASSY PARIS

CONFIDENTIAL SANA 209

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: OTRA, PFOR

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT AL-HAMDI'S TRIP TO FRANCE

1. FOREIGN MINISTER ABDALLAH AL-ASNAJ INFORMED ME MAY 28 THAT PRESIDENT AL-HAMDI WILL BE PAYING FORMAL VISIT TO FRANCE FROM JULY 1 THROUGH JULY 3. HE EXPLAINED THAT VISIT IS PRIMARILY SYMBOLIC IN ORDER DEMONSTRATE YEMEN'S EMERGENCE ONTO WORLD SCENE. YEMENIS, HOWEVER, WILL ALSO BE SEEKING TO INTEREST FRENCH IN INVESTMENT AND COMMERCIAL POSSIBILITIES IN YEMEN.

2. COMMENT: AL-HAMDI'S RECENT VISITS ABROAD HAVE FOR THEIR PURPOSE, AS AL-ASNAJ POINTS OUT, THE ENHANCEMENT OF YEMEN'S INTERNATIONAL IMAGE BUT ALSO AT SAME TIME AL-HAMDI'S INTERNAL PRESTIGE. THE VISIT TO FRANCE WILL BE AL-HAMDI'S FIRST TO THE WEST. DESPITE SOME POSSIBLE COMMERCIAL COMPETITION FOR AMERICAN FIRMS WHICH MAY RESULT, THE VISIT IS CERTAINLY WELCOME BALANCE TO AL-HAMDI'S RECENT TRIPS TO COMMUNIST CHINA AND NORTH KOREA.

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	Margaret P. Grafeld	Declassified/Released	US Department of State	EO Systematic Review	22 May 2009
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